



NEWSLETTER

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GREEN BUILDING TECHNIQUES USED ON TWO INDIANAPOLIS HEALTH CENTERS

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY ACTS AS KEY PARTNER

INDIANAPOLIS – HealthNet recently celebrated the green renovation and expansion of two community health centers. Their ideas were prompted by the City's Office of Sustainability, who helped with permit approvals for these sustainable plans. The centers are located on the near southwest side of Indianapolis and on the near east side.

"Both People's and Southwest Health & Dental Centers are examples of many green building techniques and materials and we are very fortunate to have them in our City as examples of what a truly green building can be. The Office of Sustainability was able to assist Healthnet navigate the city permitting process as many of these techniques are new to Indianapolis and haven't been utilized in our city until now." said Kären Haley, director of the City's Office of Sustainability. "I applaud Heathnet for being a leader in green building in Indianapolis."

Both centers incorporate a variety of green components:

- Green storm water management systems
- Native landscaping
- Heat-reflective and energy efficient roofing systems
- Public transportation access and bike racks
- Use of low VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, sealants and adhesives
- Energy efficient heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Recyclable content material for interior finishes
- Water-conserving fixtures
- Paperless electronic medical record systems

Southwest Health Center and Southwest OB/GYN Annex provided care for nearly nine thousand patients, many living below the federal poverty level. When the center reached capacity, they purchased the nearby

Masonic Lodge and embarked on a capital campaign to raise money for renovations and the addition of a dental center.

Thanks to federal stimulus funds and donations, the \$4.8 million renovation and expansion project was finished early last summer. Both centers, along with the newly created dental center, moved into the renovated Masonic Lodge in July. The new HealthNet Southwest Health & Dental Center is located at 1522 W. Morris Street.

Not only does the 24,000 square foot facility double its former capacity, it also incorporates a live retaining wall and roof. Live roofs and walls are created by covering infrastructure with plants and vegetation. The major benefit of live infrastructure is the reduction of “urban heat island effect.” The urban heat island effect is the temperature difference between urban areas and their rural surroundings. The temperature differential causes air currents and dust, and even contributes to violent weather events within urban settings. Green roof and wall vegetation cools air, slows air movement and acts as a filter for pollution.

In addition to the HealthNet facility on the south side, green infrastructure is also being incorporated into the construction of a HealthNet People’s Health & Dental Center on the near east side. A 9,000 square foot permeable paver parking lot opened at the facility on October 1. Contractors, architects and city officials saw a demonstration of how the permeable paver parking lot will work during a flash flood when a water truck dumped more than 4,000 gallons of water, the equivalent of 9 inches of rain, on the lot in a matter of 15 minutes. The demonstration was a success when no run-off occurred.

The \$6.6 million, environmentally “green” center will also create jobs and set a new standard for patient care, delivering 42,000 patient visits per year. The new building is expected to be complete by early 2011 and will be located at 2340 E. 10th Street.

Both Southwest Health & Dental Center and People’s Health & Dental Center serve as an example of how the City’s Office of Sustainability helps to promote the use of innovative green building techniques and materials to make local building more sustainable.

To learn more about Mayor Ballard’s vision of making Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest, visit www.sustainindy.org.

About HealthNet:

HealthNet is Indiana’s largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and is a Clarian Health affiliate. Since 1968, it has played a vital role in providing access to affordable, quality health care, counseling, outreach and support programs to Indianapolis residents, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured and live below the federal poverty level. Through its network of five community-based health centers, an OB/GYN care center, a pediatric and adolescent care center, and eight school-based clinics, HealthNet annually serves over 50,000 individuals.

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